

The Great Pop-Portrait Magazine

POPSTER

No. 23

Monthly 15p

KUNG FU IS HERE!

IN THIS EXCITING ISSUE

**Fantastic, Full Colour
Action-packed**

**Bruce
Lee
Poster**

BACKGROUND BEHIND

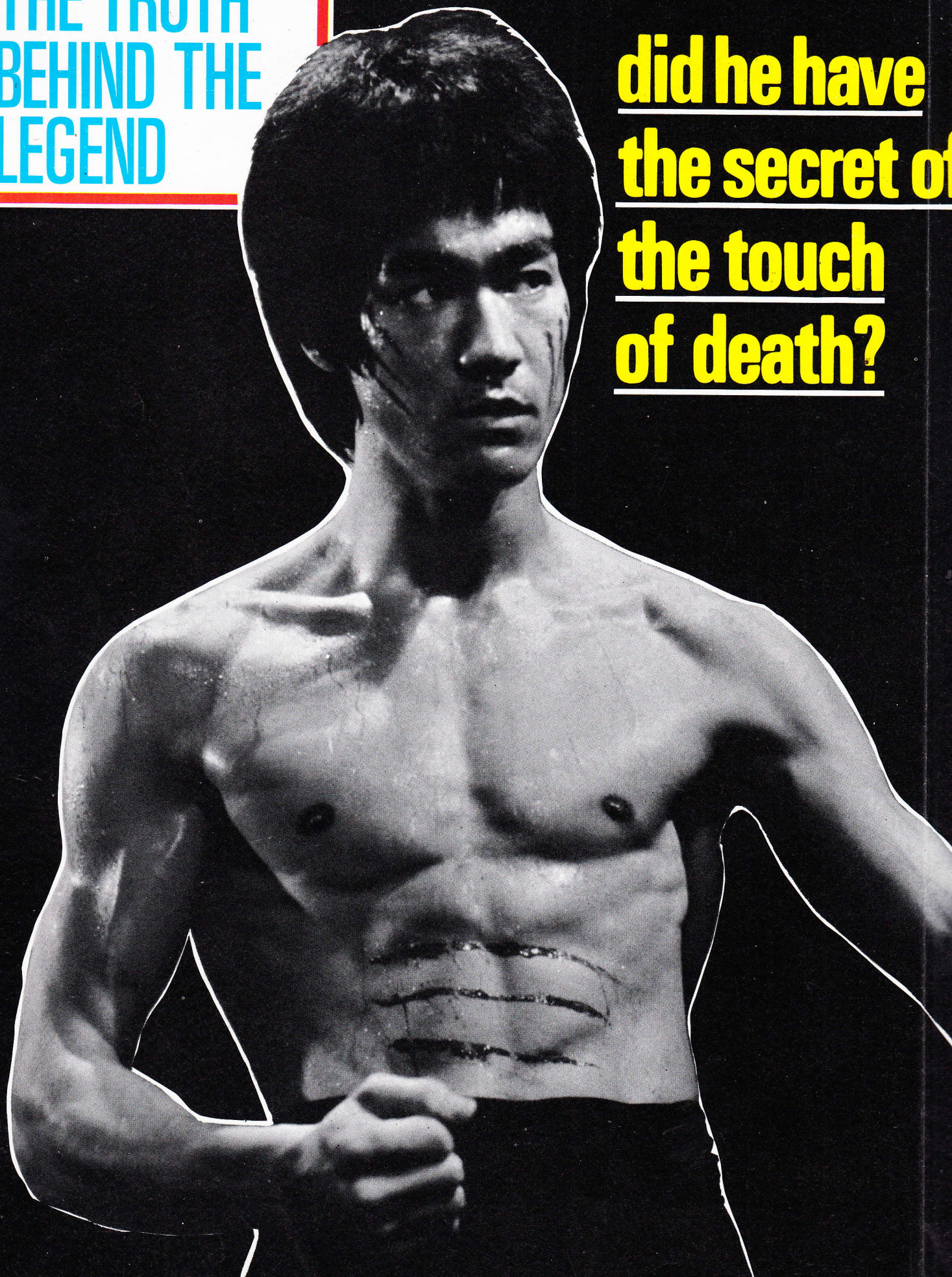
THE LATEST CULT



HERE AT LAST
THE TRUTH
BEHIND THE
LEGEND

BRUCE

did he have
the secret of
the touch
of death?



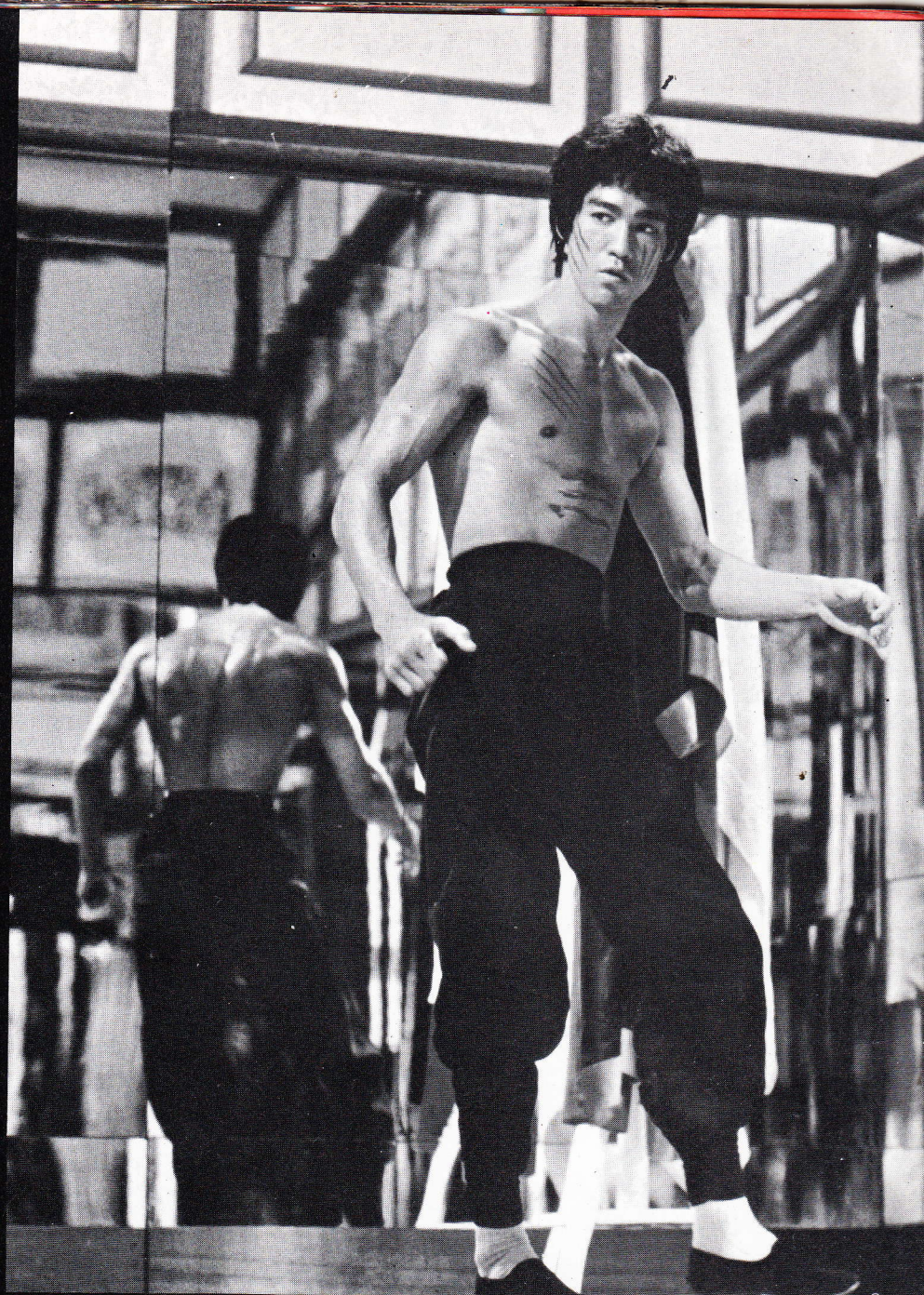
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HOLD on to your seats, kids! Everyone has gone Kung Fu crazy. Fast and furious, fist and foot fighting epics like "Enter The Dragon", "Fists of Fury", and "Hap Ki Do" are packing cinemas all over the world. The exploits of Kwai Chang Caine—alias David Carradine—keep millions of fans glued to their TV screens every week. Kung Fu actors from Hong Kong are touring Great Britain with a live stage spectacular "featuring real fights". Kung Fu clubs, some good and some downright dangerous, are springing up like mushrooms. Thousands of kids who used to discuss the best way of taking a goal kick now concentrate on perfecting their flying drop kicks.

And if credit is due to any one man for starting the craze, that man must surely be Bruce Lee.

Bruce Lee, a handsome American Chinese of perfect physique, lightning reflexes and a skill in the martial arts of China that was almost super-human. Bruce Lee, the 5ft. 2in. philosophy graduate who, after only five major films, became a Superstar. Bruce Lee, who at the height of his fame, suddenly and mysteriously died.







Was Bruce killed by secret Kung Fu Masters?

A SHOCKED world heard the sad news in July 1973. Bruce Lee had collapsed and died at the home of a friend in Hong Kong. He was 32. The exact circumstances of his death were, and still are, a mystery. Immediately the legends began to grow. Some said that Bruce had, for some mystical reason, willed his own death. Others that he had made one mistake in a fight sequence and failed to stop a fatal blow to the head.

The strangest, and creepiest, theory was that Bruce was murdered by Kung Fu masters who resented him revealing secrets of the ancient art. How could anyone kill the invincible Bruce? It is said that a Master can kill with a touch. The touch could have been delivered at any time, and Bruce wouldn't even have noticed.

The official cause of death was listed as a haemorrhage caused by a weak blood vessel in the brain. We may never know the truth.

But Bruce Lee's memory lives on. And it won't be forgotten in a hurry by anyone who has seen his films and gasped at his leaping, flailing, ferocious and devastating style of kick-fighting.

BRUCE LEE'S SECRET NAME

JUST as Bruce's death is a mystery, very little is known about his life. He was born in San Francisco in 1940 and named Lee Hsiao-Lung. This means "little dragon". The name turned out to be prophetic. Like the mythical Chinese dragon, he was destined to become a legend.

From the age of three to 18 he was raised in Hong Kong. His father was a well-known star of Chinese opera and a Kung Fu expert. When he was 12 Bruce began to study this ancient Chinese art of self defence and was a master by the time he was 18. Then he returned to America to study philosophy at the University of Washington in Seattle.



WHAT IS KUNG FU?

PHILOSOPHY was very important to Bruce, as it is to anyone who wants to learn Kung Fu. Kung Fu is not a method of attack; it is a method of defence. It was invented possibly three thousand years ago by Buddhist monks. The monks taught humility, patience and peace. They forbade their converts to carry weapons, leaving whole villages at the mercy of gangs of bandits. So the monks, with plenty of time for observation and study, developed Kung Fu as a

form of self defence. They learned the secrets of the body's nerve centres and how to kill or disable at a touch. Kung Fu turns the aggressive force back on the attacker. A master must avoid trouble rather than restrain the attacker; he must restrain rather than hurt; he must hurt rather than maim, maim rather than kill. For behind the whole thing is a regard for the sacredness of life.

The words Kung Fu mean "hard work". And hard work it certainly is. It takes years of

discipline and training to become proficient, for a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Meditation is a vital part of the training.

Kung Fu teaches incredible quickness of movement and how to walk without a sound. It develops amazing resistance to heat and cold. In China it is said of a Kung Fu master: "Listened for, he cannot be heard; looked for, he cannot be seen; felt for, he cannot be touched." It is also believed that he can walk through walls.





BRUCE LEE'S GREATEST FAN

It is fitting that Bruce Lee's self-confessed greatest fan is none other than David Carradine, star of TV's "Kung Fu" series. Says David: "That Bruce Lee, man, he's just too good. I must take over from him and carry on his work". For David Carradine, alias Kwai Chang Caine, Bruce Lee lives.

BRUCE LEE'S CLIMB TO STARDOM

BRUCE, with his natural balletic grace and sharp reflexes, became a master in the comparatively short time of five years. He even developed his own style of fighting, which he called "jeen kun do".

After graduating in philosophy, Bruce and his future wife Linda moved to Los Angeles, where he opened several karate schools to teach his own unique style.

Among his students were Steve McQueen, James Coburn, Lee Marvin and James Garner. Perhaps that was when Bruce decided to become a movie star.

But it was to be some years before he took those first vital steps up the ladder of stardom.

His career really began in 1964 at an international karate tournament at Long Beach, California. He was spotted by a TV producer with a keen eye for talent who signed him up for an American TV series called "The Green Hornet". A limited success in America, the show made Bruce a national hero in Hong Kong.

But for some reason American producers were slow in catching on. He appeared briefly in the "Batman" and "Longstreet" TV

series. In 1969 he had a small part in a thriller film called "Marlowe" with his one-time pupil, James Garner.

THE BIG BREAK

The big break came when he was in Hong Kong promoting his "Green Hornet" series. Raymond Chow, boss of the famous Golden Harvest studios, offered him his first big feature film. This was "Fists of Fury", which broke Hong Kong's all-time box office record set by "The Sound of Music". The Kung Fu craze was born.

Then came "The Big Boss" and "The Chinese Connection", both of which were smash hits in the East and in America. These were followed by "Way of the Dragon", which he directed himself.

Next, Warner Brothers of Hollywood contracted him to do "Enter The Dragon" and paid him so much money that he was able to set up his own film company. He started work on "The Game of Death", the first production by his own company and the fulfilment of a life's ambition.

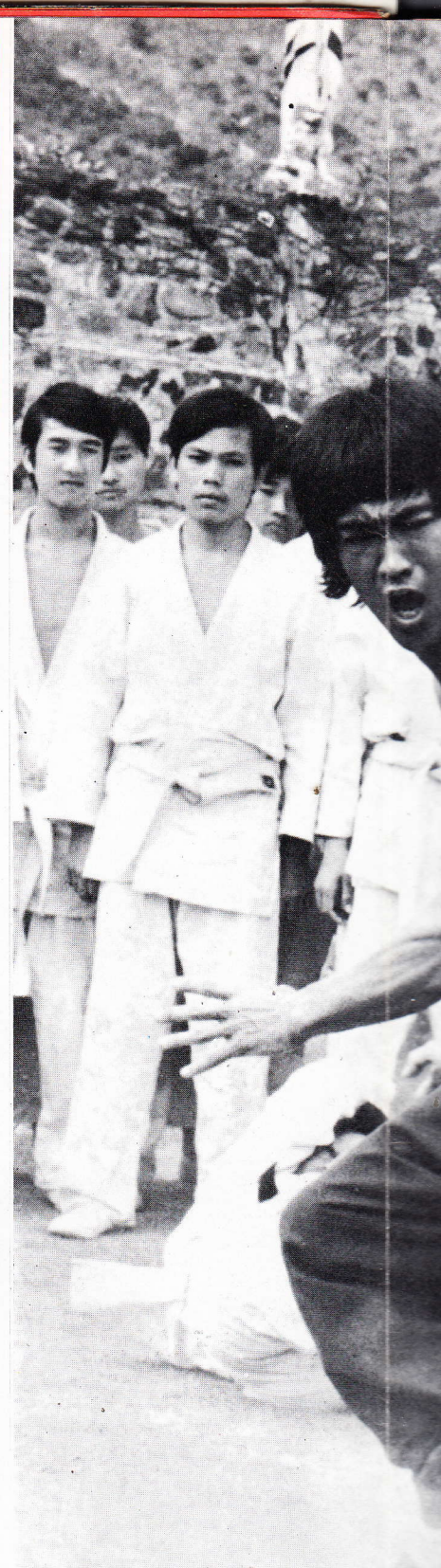
Halfway through it he collapsed and died at the house of a friend.



COULD HE BEAT ANYONE IN THE WORLD?

Understandably, Bruce was proud of his body and his skill. "To tell the truth", he once said, "I can beat anybody in the world". He had an unnerving habit of suddenly flashing a karate punch at you. It never connected, but you could feel the wind. He took great delight in demonstrating his astonishing skill at unexpected moments.

Producer of "Enter The Dragon", Fred Weintraub tells a story that is typical of Bruce's style. Wherever Bruce went, Fred explains, he was always being challenged to fight. It was a bit like being the fastest gun in the



West: many a self-confident youth was dying to find out if he was faster. A young karate student, a film extra, once walked up to Bruce and said: "I don't think you are so fast. I think I can beat you". Bruce stamped his feet three times, the signal that he was ready to fight. Suddenly he swerved round and laid his opponent flat on the floor with a kick on the chin. Then he walked away saying: "Let's do the next scene".

Bruce was basically a lone wolf. He was the original inscrutable Oriental. He loved his American wife Linda and adored his two children—son Brendon,

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aged 8, and daughter Shannon, 4. Though remembered with affection by his many friends, he said that the only two men he really trusted were Raymond Chow and himself.

He was almost a fanatic about his fighting art. He went to all the best teachers in the best schools and mastered their techniques. He was incredibly keen on physical fitness and spent many hours of every day in the huge gymnasium built into his 11-room Hong Kong mansion. A three-mile run and an hour's meditation were also part of his daily routine.

But it wasn't all physical. He

owned one of the best libraries in the world, containing thousands of books on fighting and philosophy. He would often lock himself away for hours to study them. Nobody knew more about fighting than Bruce Lee.

DEATH OF A STAR, BIRTH OF A LEGEND?

BRUCE Lee had two funerals. At his first symbolic funeral in Hong Kong, 30,000 heart-broken fans came to mourn. At his actual burial in Seattle, USA, Steve McQueen and James Coburn helped carry the coffin.

Coming next in Popster! Issue number 24,
on sale August 3rd, will feature

THE WOMBLES

*Read all about them by ordering your
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